

## Message Text

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11

ACTION ARA-17

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 MED-03

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10

PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 M-03 A-01 SY-10 NEA-10

OPR-02 PER-05 USSS-00 SCA-01 RSR-01 CCO-00 /108 W  
----- 001750

O 080659 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 5781

C O N F I D E N T I A L MEXICO 3152

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OGEN, PINS, APER, MX

SUBJECT: LEONHARDY KIDNAPPING: RELEASE AT LAST ( ALL TIMES  
LOCAL)

1. EMBASSY RECEIVED CALL AT 2226 FROM  
GUADALAJARA, STATING THAT PHONE CALL HAD JUST BEEN  
RECEIVED FROM CONSUL GENERAL LEONHARDY WHO STATED  
HE WAS AT BAR LOCATED AT MORELOS 1864 ( AN ADDRESS ABOUT  
TEN MINUTES RIDE FROM HIS RESIDENCE).
2. CONSUL GENERAL DOBYNS, U. S. PUBLIC HEALTH DOCTOR  
PIERCE, AND DRIVER IMMEDIATELY DEPARTED FOR LOCATION.  
UPON ARRIVING AT BAR, DOBYNS ENTERED TO  
FIND A SMILING TERRY LEONHARDY SITTING AT A CORNER  
TABLE. MORE SURPRISING WAS THE SINGULARLY REMARKABLE  
WELCOME GIVEN BY TWO WOMEN CUSTOMERS WHO  
APPROACHED MR. DOBYNS AND EMBRACED HIM THREE TIMES AS IF HE WERE  
A LONG- LOST FRIEND. BOTH MESSRS. DOBYNS AND LEONHARDY,  
FOR REASONS NOT FULLY EXPLAINED, SUSPECT THAT THESE EFFUSIVE  
LADIES WERE, IN FACT, FRIENDS OF THE KIDNAPPING GROUP.
3. ON RETURN TO RESIDENCE AT APPROXIMATELY 2300, MR. LEONHARDY  
WAS SUCCESSFULLY BROUGHT INTO HOUSE WITHOUT ANY DIRECT  
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CONTACT WITH THE PRESS. HOWEVER, DETERMINED MEMBERS OF FOURTH ESTATE, UNSATISFIED WITH ISSUANCE OF PREPARED STATEMENT, PRESSED DEMANDS FOR INTERVIEW UNTIL SKILLFULLY PLACATED BY USIS OFFICERS HIGGINS AND DENNIS, WHO, WITHIN AGREED PRESS GUIDELINES, PARIED QUESTIONS FOR FEW MINUTES, THEN DISMISSED PRESS WHO DEPARTED.

4. SHORTLY AFTER HIS ARRIVAL HOME, MR. LEONHARDY SPOKE BY PHONE WITH AMBASSADOR MEYER AND CHARGE. HE STATED THAT HE WASN'T SURE UNTIL THE END ABOUT HIS CHANCES OF RELEASE. HIS CAPTORS HAD HELD HIM UP UNTIL THE VERY LAST MINUTE. HE WAS TRANSPORTED TO RELEASE SITE " FLAT ON MY BACK" IN A CAR WITH THREE MEMBERS OF THE KIDNAPPING GROUP. MR. LEONHARDY FURTHER STATED THAT HE HAD BEEN TREATED WELL. IT WAS SUGGESTED THAT HE DOWNPLAY ANY SUCH STATEMENTS IN FUTURE CONTACT WITH PRESS, SINCE IN FACT ABDUCTORS HAD DEPRIVED HIM OF HIS LIBERTY AND HAD PLACED HIS LIFE IN JEOPARDY. LEONHARDY WAS NOT MISTREATED.

5. MR. LEONHARDY FURTHER STATED THAT HE FELT HE HAD SOME IDEA OF LOCATION OF HAUNTS OF THE GROUP AND PERHAPS COULD IDENTIFY SOME MEMBERS. EFFORTS CONSEQUENTLY MADE TO ARRANGE FOR EARLIEST POSSIBLE DEBRIEFING, AT LEAST IN ORDER TO GLEAN TIME- CRITICAL, ACTIONABLE INTELLIGENCE. ( SEE SEPTTEL)

6. DOCTOR PIERCE NEXT UNDERTOOK MEDICAL EXAMINATION. IT WAS ANTICIPATED THAT THIS MIGHT TAKE AN HOUR OR MORE. TO EVERYONE'S RELIEF MR. LEONHARDY'S PHYSICAL CONDITION IS SUCH THAT DOCTOR PIERCE WAS ABLE COMPLETE EXAMINATION IN PERHAPS TEN OR FIFTEEN MINUTES. DOCTOR'S REPORT IS THAT LEONHARDY DID NOT EAT WELL DURING PERIOD OF CAPTIVITY, HE SUFFERED FROM AN OBVIOUS LACK OF SLEEP, BUT WITH THE EXCEPTION OF SOME RESIDUAL DIARRHEA, HE WAS SUFFERING FROM NO PHYSICAL INJURIES OR DISCOMFORTS. DOCTOR PIERCE FURTHER CONFIRMED THAT MR. LEONHARDY HAD NO BRUISES AND SUFFERED FROM NO TRAUMA.

7. MR. LEONHARDY, ACCORDING TO CONSUL GENERAL DOBYNS, HAD BEEN TOLD IN NOT VERY PRECISE TERMS ABOUT THE RELEASE OF PRISONERS, THEIR FLIGHT TO CUBA, AND THE MONETARY RANSOM. HE HAD CONFIDENTIAL

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BEEN BLINDFOLDED THROUGHOUT HIS ORDEAL WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE BRIEF PERIODS OF TIME WHEN HE WROTE MESSAGES .

8. AFTER SIMULTANEOUS CONVERSATIONS BETWEEN EMBASSY, GUADALAJARA, AND THE DEPARTMENT, IT WAS AGREED THAT THE POSSIBILITY OF A CALL FROM

SECRETARY ROGERS AT 0730 LOCAL TOMORROW WOULD BE  
SO WELCOME A PROSPECT THAT IT SHOULD BE SCHEDULED  
DESPITE MR. LEONHARDY'S PRESENT NEED FOR REST.

9. GUADALAJARA ASSURES US THAT ADEQUATE  
SECURITY PRECAUTIONS HAVE BEEN TAKEN AT  
RESIDENCE.  
DEAN

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NMAFVVZCZ

\*\*\* Current Handling Restrictions \*\*\* n/a

\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* CONFIDENTIAL

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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** garlanwa  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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